

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act

The Virginia Graeme Baker Act (VGBA) was signed into law on December 19, 2007, to prevent injuries and deaths of swimmers. The law requires both residential and commercial pool and spa facilities to install barriers or fencing around pools and spas, as well as provide entrapment protection standards and other layers of protection for swimming pool and spa drains.

It is the responsibility of the pool and spa owner to determine whether any modifications are needed and to implement those modifications to become compliant with VGBA.

What does VGBA require?

All pools and spas must include these minimum requirements:

- Enclosure of all outdoor residential pools and spas by barriers that will effectively prevent children from gaining access to the facility.
- All pools and spas must be equipped with devices designed to prevent entrapment.
- All pools and spas that have a main drain (that cannot be blocked) must be equipped with an anti-entrapment drain cover.
- All pools and spas built more than one year after Dec. 19, 2007, must have either:
 - a. More than one drain.
 - b. One or more drains that cannot be blocked.
 - c. No main drain.

Are construction permits needed to comply?

Public facilities that get annual permits from the DuPage County Health Department are required to obtain a construction permit from the Illinois Department of Public Health if they are altering their pools to comply with VGBA.

Contact the Swimming Pool Facilities Program at the Illinois Department of Public Health at (217) 782-5830 or TTY (for hearing impaired use only) (800) 547-0466 if you are not sure about compliance requirements.

VGBA resources:

Consumer Product Safety Commission: <http://www.poolsafely.gov/>

Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.poolsafely.gov/faqs/>

[Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Swimming Pool and Bathing Beach Code](#)